

Google Groups

NOTES/ACTION: Groundswell Mtg. 3/6/2013

conservativenetworking

Mar 7, 2013 2:39 PM

Posted in group: **Groundswell**

GROUNDSWELL: This meeting is about message synchronization, coalitional efforts and a 30 front war seeking to fundamentally transform the nation...

[NOTES from March 6, 2013 Gathering](#)

Cherylyn Harley LeBon suggested we measure our success by Googling our theme and noted how Groundswell is driving this theme right now!!

BROWNIE POINTS for using the theme “**politics over public safety; danger**” of the week to:

Tom Fitton

Frank Gaffney

Peter List

Mark Krikorian

Michael James Barton

Mark Tapscott

Related efforts are showing up in Michael Walsh’s op ed, Matt Boyle’s pieces, but Bongino reminded people to somehow get the phrase in your pieces too!

HASHTAGS AND MESSAGING:

SequesterThis

#PoliticsOverPublicSafety

ACTION ITEMS:

- • BSA – ongoing project
- • Gun Control legislation moving
- • Brennan Confirmation
- • Benghazi-Gate Efforts
- • CR Vote in House and Senate (not including a vote to defund Obamacare)
- • Obama's upcoming Israel Trip – March 20

CONFERENCE CALLS:

1. BLOGGERS: Friday through Anita – discussion of theme
2. ORGANIZED BY SANDY TO DISCUSS SOCIAL SECONSERVATIVE USE OF THEME: (Charmaine Yoest and Phyllis Schlafly)

INFORMATION

POLICY OVER PUBLIC SAFETY: While unable to monitor impact at this point it was noted that the majority of the group was successful in using this theme throughout the week. This is a long-term focus.

GUNS: Thursday there will be a mark-up of four (4) gun bills by the Judiciary Committee:

1. Feinstein Bill – The most restrictive assault weapons ban bill; worse than 1994 bill. Purpose: to stop the sale, transfer, importation and manufacturing of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition feeding devices.
2. Leahy Bill – No text available. (<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/03/04/1191526/-Sen-Patrick-Leahy-to-introduce-bipartisan-gun-trafficking-law-a-merger-of-previous-proposals->)
3. Schumer Bill – No text available. Expected to include the requirement for “universal background checks.” This will become a registry of all guns.
4. Boxer Bill – More money under existing grant authority to fund locks and other physical security at schools.

The Leahy and Schumer bills could be "Trojan horse bills" since there is no text they can sandbag everyone with very bad legislation and demand a vote before anyone can read it.

Speaker Boehner stand on gun bills will likely be focused on mental health issues.

The NRA and GOA have not said they would score any of those four bills, but that could largely be because they have not been marked up yet (and in the case of Leahy and Schumer there isn't much to work off of). NRA and GOA should consider scoring these four bills, and not just "opposing".

During the call there was breaking news that the Halligan nomination was defeated (failed to make cloture).

Good news out of IL: The IL leg has until June 9 to create some kind of concealed carry law to comply with the 7th circuit ruling. See the explanation [here](#), and the most recent development recently [here](#).

NATIONAL SECURITY: Senate Intelligence committee voted 12-3 to confirm John Brennan as director of the CIA. Republicans voting to confirm were: Collins, Graham, Rubio and Coats. Republicans who voted against Brennan were: Chambliss, Risch, Coburn. D's are trying to rush floor vote [#StandWithRand filibuster occurred after Groundswell; galvanizing national attention to the drone issue]

BENGHAZI GATE: Momentum is building for a bi-partisan investigation.

FOIA on BENGHAZI GATE: Three law suits filed to obtain the following:

1. Information on the talking points
2. Videos and pictures
3. Security Contract (and its funding)

The purpose is to continue pressure and communicate the seriousness of this issue. Anyone with expertise in this area is encouraged to send information, questions or ideas to assist in

this effort.

CPAC: Pamela Geller, an outspoken expert on the threat of Islamic terrorism and Sharia has been excluded from the convention. Additionally, Robert Spencer, who runs Jihad Watch and is the recipient of the People's Choice Award, was barred from the convention.

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PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST/ISRAEL: (March 20) Repeat of Munich. (Suggested Theme: "*Munich 2.0*") It is anticipated that peace efforts will be made at the expense of the rest of the world.

CHAVEZ DEATH: A watchful eye should be kept on Venezuela. According to the Venezuelan Constitution, the President of the General Assembly should succeed the President, not the Vice President. Elections should be held in 30 days. This is an opportunity for someone without ties to Cuba to become President.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: Chinese front groups have acquired a major energy company in Canada. The acquisition was approved by Obama agency and benefits Obama donors (i.e. Solyndra). This gives the Chinese control over half of the key crude oil supply and enables them to set the price. [For more see Judicial Watch]

VAWA:

VAWA passed the House 286-138. Feminists have lodged a costly bullying campaign against those voting in opposition to the bill. Talking points for those who voted no and will face recriminations from misled voters will be forth coming from Eagle Forum

- VAWA DISCRIMINATION: A provision of VAWA requires that grant money will only go to non-profit organizations that perform abortions or make abortion referrals. This prohibits religious organization from qualifying for funds and is therefore discriminatory. There are religious organizations working to rescue victims of human trafficking and would be disqualified from funding. Not discussed enough (per Rep. Jim Bridenstine]

OBAMACARE:

CR VOTE to fund government for the rest of the year occurred in House (16 no votes to the House Rule which did not allow a vote to stop Obamacare funding by Bridenstine/Huelskamp). Details of the vote found here: [<http://www.redstate.com/2013/03/06/the-cr-vote-tally-courage-in-the-senate-capitulation-in-the-house/>] Sen. Ted Cruz announced interest in a Senate amendment to the CR on defunding Obamacare too now.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (BSA):

The public pushback to a change in Boy Scout policy regarding homosexuality has been overwhelming to them. Parents are against the possible change. Churches fund 70% of the BSA programs. A decision by BSA will now occur at their national meeting in May (22-24). A coalition of 40 grassroots organizations continue to generate grassroots pressure on the BSA to do the right thing.

NOTE: There are quite a few single parent homes in our society that rely on BSA to provide male role models. It is important to maintain the integrity of the program. The last time pressure was put on the Boy Scouts to change policy occurred in Canada in 1999. The pressure came from a non-religious organization. Canada Boy Scouts changed their policy and within 5 years lost half of their scouts. According to a speaker, the timing of this push in the US, seems to be related to the upcoming S Court actions.

SENATE REPORT:

- CATLIN J. HALLIGAN: The nomination was defeated (failed to make cloture). Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski was the lone Republican to support Halligan [http://newsandinsight.thomsonreuters.com/Legal/News/2013/03_-_March/Republicans_block_D_C_Circuit_nominee_Halligan_second_time/]
- BRENNAN: Confirmation vote will occur later this week.
- 2nd Amendment issues: Until the Judiciary Committee finishes the mark-up process it is unclear where the Senate will go with these issues.
- BUDGET RESOLUTION: Expecting it to come to the floor soon; expect many votes on many different issues (biggest vote-arama in the Senate possible yielding scoreable votes).

WORK GROUPS REPORT: Because of the challenges of addressing the 30 front war, a division of labor has been set up to help Groundswell deal with so many issues. Separate weekly gatherings or calls are encouraged to help lead these “lanes.”

- Energy and Environment - Myron
- National Security - Frank
- UN - Austin
- Benghazi - Boykin
- Immigration - Mark
- Messaging - Bongino
- Gun - Barton
- Ground Game – Peter List
- Karl Rove Project - Sandy
- Shadow Government – Fitton and Farris, and others

Any suggestions for *other work groups* is encouraged.

NEW STATE OUTREACH PROJECT: An initiative will be launched to support, strengthen and connect with the best state activists who are building state coalitions, as we are doing nationally. We want to encourage others to work outside of silos, together, to save the country and promote constitutional principles. Three states will be chosen to build a possible model(s) with the hope of replicating it across other states, expanding our reach and connecting key state activists/leaders into the Groundswell meetings somehow with time.

- The first state identified is Maryland. Please forward your suggestion for other states or state projects to consider.

IMMIGRATION: There is no legislation to report on at this time.

- INTERESTING NOTE - Jeb Bush is the author of a newly released book, “Immigration Wars.” The book calls for a “no amnesty” process and a permanent work visa program.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/03/05/we-read-jeb-bushs-immigration-book-so-you-dont-have-to/>

IL EFFORTS – STOPPING SAME SEX MARRIAGE: Encouraging report. A coalition of family advocates have been working together to halt the passage of the IL same sex marriage bill. Behind the scenes educating of community and legislators has been ongoing. Activities culminated this past weekend with a large demonstration at the state capitol. While the bill did pass the Senate, progress has been made to the point that many feel the votes are not there in the

House.

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MEDICAID EXPANSION: Obamacare pays for first 3 years of Medicaid expansion. In the fourth year the states must pick up the all the costs. This could well bankrupt the states. State charts found here: <http://blog.heritage.org/2013/03/05/obamacare-medicaid-expansion-state-by-state-charts/>

FLORIDA HOUSE: Although a state Governor may be on board with Medicaid expansion, it can be stopped by legislators. The members the FL House recently voted down Medicaid expansion: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/03/05/florida-may-not-expand-medicaid-after-all/>

BREITBART BLOGGER AWARD: Friday is the 1-year anniversary of Breitbart's passing. In remembrance of Andrew Breitbart, a scholarship will be given to a citizen journalist. <http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Journalism/2013/03/01/RememberBreitbart-National-Bloggers-Club-Commemorates-Breitbart-s-Legacy-with-Three-Initiatives>

MESSAGING:

POLITICS OVER PUBLIC SAFETY: The theme "Politics Over Public Safety; it's dangerous" will be used in perpetuity and can apply to a multitude of news items, policy choices or revelations.

- **EXPAND THEME REACH:** Have done a great job on the economic and national security lanes in messaging "politics over public safety." The social conservative voice is missing (see Sandy's conference call follow up).

- Examples that fit:

TSA Uniforms: \$50 mil. <http://www.ktrh.com/pages/michaelberry.html?article=11025338>

TSA AGENTS furlough <http://www.wjla.com/articles/2013/02/sequestration-2013-travel-industry-to-be-impacted-by-budget-cuts-85540.html>

US Aid to Egypt http://www.denverpost.com/nationworld/ci_22710617/u-s-release-250-million-aid-egypt-kerry

ILLEGAL ALIEN CRIMINALS: Continuing this theme as politics over safety. Include the GOP members who are focused on the goal of Hispanic votes over public safety. (Rubio, Graham, McCain and others.) As well as the GOP's lack of making anyone responsible for the President's lawlessness and willingness to put people at risk.

- TEA PARTY PATRIOTS: Opportunity to find faces to go with our theme – TPP began collecting information on their website using the theme, “share your story,” for how big government policies are affecting you.

OTHER MESSAGING IDEAS proposed:

“THE GREAT DIVIDER” as Obama's legacy.

LINKS

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: [HTTP://WASHINGTONEXAMINER.COM/NEWS/WATCHDOG](http://WASHINGTONEXAMINER.COM/NEWS/WATCHDOG)

U.S. GAVE TROUBLED FLORIDA FIRM \$129 MILLION FOR NEW OHIO HEALTH COOPERATIVE <http://washingtongaminer.com/u.s.-gave-troubled-florida-firm-129-million-for-new-ohio-health-cooperative/article/2523337>

THE OBAMA YOU DON'T KNOW <http://washingtongaminer.com/article/2508551>

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Stephanie Arje



“One of the penalties of not participating in politics is that you will be governed by your inferiors.”—Plato

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